In the Claims

Claims 1-19 canceled

20. (Previously presented) An optical scanner for optically scanning a bar code, said optical scanner comprising:

a housing;

a first scanning system, housed in said housing, for emitting a first scanning beam which passes through a first area on said housing, the first scanning beam being focused at a first focal position at a distance from the first area and moving in a first scanning pattern, the first scanning beam suitable for optically scanning a first type of bar code; and

a second scanning system, housed in said housing, for emitting a second scanning beam which passes through a second area on said housing, the second area being different from the first area, the second scanning beam being focused at a second focal position at a distance from the second area and moving in a second scanning pattern, the distance from the first focal position to the first area being different than the distance from the second focal position to the second area, the second scanning beam suitable for optically scanning a second type of bar code which is different from the first type of bar code.

21. (Previously presented) An optical scanner for optically scanning a bar code, said optical scanner comprising:

a housing;

a first scanning system, housed in said housing, for emitting a first scanning beam from a predetermined surface of said housing, the first scanning beam moving in a first scanning pattern;

a second scanning system, housed in said housing, for emitting a second scanning beam from the predetermined surface of said housing, the second scanning beam moving in a second scanning pattern, a scanning line included in the second scanning pattern is longer than a scanning line included in the first scanning pattern.

22. (Previously presented) An optical scanner for optically scanning a bar code, comprising:

a housing which includes a window, the window having first and second surface areas thereon and which are different from each other;

a first scanning system, housed in the housing, for emitting a scanning beam which passes through the first surface area on the window and forms a cross-line pattern; and

a second scanning system, housed in the housing, for emitting a scanning beam which passes through the second surface area on the window and forms a line pattern on the second surface area.

23. (Previously presented) An optical scanner for optically scanning a bar code, said optical scanner comprising:

a housing;

a first scanning system, housed in said housing, for emitting a first scanning beam which passes through a first area on said housing, the first scanning beam being focused at a first focal position and moving in a first scanning pattern; and

a second scanning system, housed in said housing, for emitting a second scanning beam which passes through a second area on said housing, the second area being different from the first area, the second scanning beam being focused at a second focal position different from the first focal position and moving in a second scanning pattern, wherein a number of scanning lines included in the first scanning pattern is greater than a number of scanning lines included in the second scanning pattern.

24. (Previously presented) An optical scanner according to Claim 23 wherein first scan pattern comprises a plurality of intersecting scan lines and the second scan pattern comprises a single scan line.

25. (Previously presented) A method for scanning optical codes comprising the steps of:

providing a housing with a first window and a second window:

generating a first scanning beam, passing the first scanning beam out through the first window, focusing the first scanning beam at a first focal position at a distance from the first window, and moving the first scanning beam in a first scanning pattern, the first scanning beam suitable for optically scanning a first type of bar code; and

generating a second scanning beam, passing the second scanning beam out through the second window, focusing the second scanning beam at a second focal position at a distance from the second window, and moving the second scanning beam in a second scanning pattern, the distance from the first focal position to the first window being different than the distance from the second focal

position to the second window, the second scanning beam suitable for optically scanning a second type of bar code which is different from the first type of bar code.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 25 further comprising

generating the first scan pattern comprised of intersecting scan lines and the second scan pattern comprised of a single scan line.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 25 wherein the first type of bar code comprises bar code labels on items being purchased and the second type of bar code comprises bar codes on coupons.

28. (Previously presented) A method for optically scanning comprising the steps of

providing a housing with first and second surface areas thereon and which are different from each other;

generating a first scan pattern of intersecting scan lines and passing the first scan pattern out through the first surface area; and

generating a second scan pattern consisting of a single scan line and passing the second scan pattern out through the second surface area.

29. (previously presented) A method for scanning optical codes comprising the steps of:

providing a housing with at least a first window;

generating a first scanning beam and focusing the first scanning beam at a first focal distance;

scanning the first scanning beam to produce a first scan pattern of a plurality of intersecting scan lines and passing the first scan pattern out from the housing to scan an item to be read; and

generating a second scanning beam and focusing the second scanning beam at a second focal distance different from the first focal distance;

scanning the second scanning beam to produce a second scan pattern of a single scan line and passing the second scan pattern out from the housing to scan an item to be read.

30. (Previously presented) A system for reading optical codes on redemption coupons and reading optical codes on items being purchased in a consumer transaction, comprising:

a data reader including

a housing having a first window oriented generally horizontally and a second window oriented generally vertically,

a rotating scanning mechanism contained within the housing for producing a first scan pattern which is directed through the first window and a second scan pattern which is directed through the second window,

collection optics and decoding software, wherein bar codes on redemption coupons and bar codes on items being purchased are read by scan patterns produced by the scanning mechanism; and

coupon validation logic which determines whether a redemption coupon being read by the data reader correlates to any of the items being purchased.

31. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 30 further comprising a cash register in communication with the data reader, wherein the coupon validation logic is contained in the cash register.

32. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 30 further comprising

a network of a plurality of data readers;

a computer attached to the network in communication with the data readers, wherein the coupon validation logic is contained in the computer.

33. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 30 wherein the coupon validation logic is contained in the data reader.

34. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 30 further comprising

a network of a plurality of data readers and a plurality of cash registers with a cash register associated with each data reader;

controller software for running the cash registers, wherein the coupon validation logic is contained in the controller software.

35. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 30 wherein the scanning mechanism comprises a polygon mirror.

36. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 35 wherein the polygon mirror includes four mirror facets.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 28 wherein the housing comprises a fixed unit mountable within a counter top.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 37 wherein the first surface area comprises a first window oriented generally horizontally and the second surface area comprises a second window oriented generally vertically.

39. (Previously presented) A system for reading optical codes on redemption coupons and reading optical codes on items being purchased in a consumer transaction, comprising:

a data reader including

a housing having a first window oriented generally horizontally and a second window oriented generally vertically,

a first scanning system, disposed in the housing, for producing a first scan pattern of a plurality of intersecting scan lines which is directed upwardly through the first window,

a second scanning system, disposed in the housing, for producing a second scan pattern which is directed sidewardly through the second window,

collection optics and decoding software;

coupon validation logic which determines whether a redemption coupon being read by the data reader correlates to any of the items being purchased.

40. (Previously presented) A system for reading optical codes on redemption coupons and reading optical codes on items being purchased in a consumer transaction, comprising:

a data reader including (a) a housing having a first window oriented generally horizontally and a second window oriented generally vertically, wherein the data reader produces (1) a first scan pattern of a plurality of intersecting scan lines which is directed upwardly through the first window and (2) a second scan pattern which is directed sidewardly through the second window, and (b) collection optics; and

coupon validation logic which determines whether a redemption coupon being read by the data reader correlates to any of the items being purchased.

41. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 40 further comprising a cash register in communication with the data reader, wherein the coupon validation logic is contained in the cash register.

42. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 40 further comprising

a network of a plurality of data readers;

a computer attached to the network in communication with the data readers, wherein the coupon validation logic is contained in the computer.

43. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 40 wherein the coupon validation logic is contained in the data reader.